

NEW DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT DATA FOR THE CARPENTARIAN FALSE ANTECHINUS (*PSEUDANTECHINUS MIMULUS*). *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 49(2): 740, 2004.- *Pseudantechinus mimulus* was first described from a specimen collected from Alexandria (19°03'S, 136°42'E) in the Northern Territory (Thomas, 1906). It was later synonymised by Mahoney & Ride (1988) with *P. macdonnellensis*. However, 3 additional specimens collected in 1991 from the North Island of the Sir Edward Pellew Island Group in the Northern Territory were used to redescribe the species (Kitchener, 1991). Further surveys of the Edward Pellew Island Group collected animals from the Central and South West Islands (Johnson & Kerle, 1991).

The animal was not known from Queensland until 1997 when 3 individuals of *P. mimulus* were collected east of Mt Isa (T. Griffiths unpubl. data, 1997). In May 2002 we collected only the fourth animal known from Queensland. The animal was captured during a routine baseline survey 140km SE of Mt Isa (21° 34' S and 140° 29' E) in the Selwyn Ranges and was lodged with the Queensland Museum (QMJM15044).

The animal was captured on a standard small mammal bait mix in a Type A Elliot trap on the western side of the rocky slope beneath a rocky outcrop. The capture site was dominated by an understorey of spinifex grasses (*Triodia molesta* and *T. longiceps*) in a region typified by an open woodland of Snappy Gum (*Eucalyptus leucophloia*).

The geology at the capture site was a variably brecciated calc-silicate unit that consisted of coarse (approximately 2mm) particles that readily crumbled under pressure. The capture site was adjacent to disturbed land associated with the construction of a new road. Furthermore, a recent fire had passed within close proximity, but had not burnt vegetation in the immediate area.

Little additional habitat data is available on *P. mimulus*. The collection location for the holotype, Alexandria Station, largely encompasses tussock grassland on blacksoil plains. However, the area historically referred to as Alexandria is considerably larger than currently recognised and the precise location where the holotype was collected cannot be accurately determined (Fisher et al., 2000).

Habitat data from individuals collected in Edward Pellew Island Group suggest that *P. mimulus* is predominantly a sandstone species. In this respect, the *P. mimulus* habitat

selection is similar to many of its congenitors which have also been found predominantly on sandstone (Fisher et al., 2000; Woolley, 1995a, 1995b). Upland rocky ranges that contain sandstone extend from the Edward Pellew Island group SE to the Selwyn Ranges (Fisher et al., 2000).

Pseudantechinus mimulus is recognised as Vulnerable nationally (Maxwell et al., 1996) but does not have a published status in Queensland. Systematic surveys of the Mt Isa area are required to fully determine the status of this species.

Acknowledgements

We thank Fiona Tromans who assisted in the field survey activities as well as Selwyn Mines who funded the survey.

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